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FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2452
INFO RUCNMGH/MAGHREB COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 1230
RUEHNK/AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT IMMEDIATE 0822
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE 1689
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T TUNIS 000045

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STATE FOR NEA/FO - GRAY; NEA/MAG - HOPKINS, HARRIS
NSC FOR ABRAMS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/04/2017
TAGS: [PTER](#) [ASEC](#) [CASC](#) [PGOV](#) [TS](#)
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR BRIEFS UK/FRENCH AMBASSADORS ON THREAT
INFORMATION FROM FM

REF: A. TUNIS 31
[1](#)B. TUNIS 30
[1](#)C. TUNIS 16
[1](#)D. 06 TUNIS 2980
[1](#)E. 06 TUNIS 2973

Classified By: AMBASSADOR ROBERT F. GODEC FOR REASONS 1.4 (b) AND (d)

[1](#)1. (S) On January 5, Ambassador briefed British Ambassador Alan Goulty on the information Foreign Minister Abdallah had shared regarding the threat to US and UK interests in Tunisia (septel). Goulty said that his mission had been seeking further details on the recent security incidents from GOT counterparts, but to date had been "fobbed off." Goulty was disturbed that the GOT had followed the group since early 2006 and had not shared the information with intelligence counterparts. When Ambassador said that he planned to follow up at his January 9 meeting with the Minister of Interior, Goulty lamented that he had been waiting since October 2005 for a meeting with the Minister. Goulty added that he was concerned about the validity of the information, which he alluded may have been obtained by torturing captured members of the group.

[1](#)2. (S) Later on January 5, Ambassador briefed French Ambassador Serge Degallaix on the same topic. Degallaix said that he had spoken to Minister of State and Special Advisor to the President Abdelaziz Ben Dhia on January 4 and MFA officials on January 5 regarding the security incidents. However, Degallaix seemed surprised at the more detailed threat information the Ambassador had received from the Foreign Minister. Degallaix told Ambassador that he was awaiting further details, which GOT officials had promised to share in the near future. He stressed his concern for greater GOT cooperation and information sharing on this issue and security matters in general.

[1](#)3. (S) UK Ambassador Goulty said that on the morning of January 5, the embassy had shared its draft consular warning with MFA counterparts, who reassured them that there "was no threat." Goulty said the language, which was largely factual, noting the recent GOT exchanges with armed elements, had been forwarded to London for release to British citizens.
GODEC